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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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Farmers May Change Their Minds

The Crop Reporting board released its Prospective Plantings Report for 1964 on March 18. The acreages actually planted in 1963 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated, by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, agricultural programs, and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' actions.

Intended Acreage Unchanged for Spring Plantings of 17 Crops

According to the Crop Reporting Board the Nation's farmers intend to plant 260 million acres for the 17 crops covered by the March 1 survey of planting intentions. This acreage is the same as last year's but 2 percent more than in 1962. If these plans are carried out, and allowances made for other crops not surveyed this month, total planted acreage for all crops could be 310 million acres. This would be the largest acreage planted in 4 years, although the fourth smallest of record. Estimates for winter wheat and rye acreages are based on December 1, 1963 figures.

Acreage Increases and Decreases

If grower plans of March 1 are realized, feed grain acreage planted to the four feed grains--

Rundown of Prospective Acreages, Comparing This Year with Last, Showing Percentages of Change

Crop	Planted 1963	Indicated 1964	Change
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Corn, all.....	70,053	68,867	-1.7
All spring wheat.....	11,004	11,719	6.5
Durum.....	1,990	2,316	16.4
Other spring.....	9,014	9,403	4.3
Oats.....	28,869	27,624	-4.3
Barley.....	13,840	12,910	-6.7
Flaxseed.....	3,447	3,262	-5.4
Cotton.....	14,836	14,833	0.0
Rice.....	1,785	1,794	0.5
Sorghums, all.....	17,771	17,696	-0.4
Potatoes, all.....	1,376	1,328	-3.5
Sweetpotatoes.....	208	194	-6.8
Tobacco.....	1,175	1,076	-8.5
Beans, dry edible.....	1,458	1,502	3.0
Peas, dry field.....	337	359	6.5
Soybeans.....	29,516	31,841	7.9
Peanuts.....	1,533	1,526	-0.5
Hay.....	66,728	67,078	0.5
Sugar beets.....	1,285	1,401	9.0

corn, oats, barley, and sorghums--would be 3 percent less than last year. Acreage for food grains, seeded or to be seeded, is 3 percent greater than last year and 1 percent more than average.

Of all Spring-planted crops, soybeans show the most dramatic change with a booming increase of 2.3 million acres--followed by durum and other spring wheat with a combined acreage increase of nearly three-fourths of a million acres. Sugar beets show a sharp 9 percent increase and minor increases are indicated for dry beans, dry peas, rice, and hay.

Oats, corn, and barley led the crops showing smaller acreage intentions than last year--a decrease of about a million acres for each crop. Acreage decreases aggregating less than half a million are expected for sorghums, flaxseed, potatoes, tobacco, sweetpotatoes, and peanuts.

Cotton acreage is expected to be about the same as it was last year, but pending cotton legislation could bring a shift in growers' plans.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Prices received by farmers		Effective Parity Prices Based on Data for Feb. 1964
	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1964	
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.) ct.	30.12	29.43	40.78
Wheat (bu.) dol.	2.00	1.99	2.52
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	5.07	5.13	6.35
Corn (bu.) dol.	1.09	1.08	1.56
Peanuts (lb.) ct.	11.2	11.6	14.1
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Milkfat in cream (lb.) ct.	58.5	58.6	77.3
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.) dol.	4.34	4.27	5.38
Wool (lb.) ct.	248.7	250.1	79.5
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.) dol.	.925	.901	1.23
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	49.00	48.70	62.90
Flaxseed (bu.) dol.	2.83	2.79	3.82
Hay, baled (ton) dol.	25.00	24.70	26.90
Oats (bu.) dol.	.646	.638	.842
Potatoes (cwt.) dol.	1.48	1.55	2.34
Rye (bu.) dol.	1.17	1.14	1.38
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.) dol.	1.76	1.75	2.44
Soybeans (bu.) dol.	2.65	2.57	3.03
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.) dol.	4.94	5.02	5.73
Oranges, on tree (box) dol.	4.30	3.95	3.22
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)... dol.	2.14	2.20	3.09
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	18.60	18.10	24.70
Calves (100 lb.) dol.	23.00	23.30	28.20
Hogs (100 lb.) dol.	14.40	14.30	21.70
Lambs (100 lb.) dol.	17.90	18.50	24.70
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	13.7	13.9	22.6
Eggs (dozen) ct.	37.8	34.9	47.0

¹ Preliminary

² Does not include incentive payment

Prospective Plantings for 1964

Corn plantings are expected to total about 69 million acres, down 2 percent from 1963 and 7 percent below the 1958-62 average.

Cotton prospective acreage at 14.8 million acres is about the same as last year and 4 percent below average.

Spring wheat plantings may total 12 million acres, 6 percent more than 1963 but 3 percent less than average.

Oat plantings, expected to be about 28 million acres, are 4 percent below 1963 and indicate a

continuation of the general decline of this crop which started in 1956.

Barley may be planted on 13 million acres, 7 percent less than last year and 18 percent less than average.

Soybean prospective acreage at 32 million acres, would be the highest of record, 8 percent above 1963 and 23 percent above average.

Sorghums for all purposes may total 18 million acres, about the same as last year and less than one percent below average.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 67 million acres, is slightly above 1963 but 1 percent less than average.

Tobacco prospective acreage, at 1.1 million acres is the lowest since 1908, 8 percent below 1963 and 7 percent under average.

Rice acreage planted may total 1.8 million acres, slightly above 1963 and 11 percent more than average.

FLAXSEED: Growers intend to plant 5 percent less flaxseed acreage in 1964, according to their March intentions. Acreage for flaxseed production is expected to total 3,262,000 acres compared with 3,447,000 last year and 2 percent below the 1958-62 average of 3,329,000 acres.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

	1963			1964	
	Feb.	Year	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	62.3	63.9	64.6	63.2	64.1
Farm employment	5.0	6.5	4.8	4.5	4.8
Family	4.0	4.7	3.9	3.7	3.9
Hired	1.0	1.8	.8	.9	.9
Index numbers (1957-59 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	120	124	127	127	128
Total personal income payments ³	124	127	130	131	131
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	112	118	122	118	119
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	116	118	122	119	120
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	100	100	100	101	101
Farm commodities ⁴	97	96	93	96	94
Food, processed	100	101	100	102	101
Consumer price index ⁴	106	107	108	108	--
Food	105	105	105	106	--
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers	242	241	237	243	240
Crops	231	238	241	243	242
Food grains	234	224	226	230	229
Feed grains and hay	161	164	164	166	164
Cotton	251	270	264	254	249
Tobacco	501	496	488	489	490
Oil bearing crops	258	258	265	268	263
Fruit	227	279	309	306	298
Commercial vegetables	252	238	241	261	278
Livestock and products	251	244	234	242	238
Meat animals	294	289	259	274	269
Dairy products	256	252	268	265	261
Poultry and eggs	157	145	144	154	147
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities	284	283	282	283	283
Used in living	298	298	298	298	299
Used in production	274	273	270	273	271
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	312	312	311	313	313
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted	663	677	681	673	673
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)	78	78	76	78	77

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	January 1963	January 1964
Dairy Production			
Milk	Bil. lb.	19.5	19.9
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	135.8	139.0
Dry Nonfat milk solids (for human food)	Mil. lb.	174.0	177.3
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	130.5	126.9
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	75.4	83.3
Ice Cream	Mil. gal.	46.7	48.3
Poultry Production			
Eggs	Billions	10.0	10.5
Federally inspected slaughter: ²			
Chickens	Mil. lb.	410.9	431.0
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	31.0	32.1
Poultry used for further processing	Mil. lb.	50.0	54.0
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	25.7	28.0
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	1.5	1.9
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	16.0	17.8
Meat Production (dressed weight) ³			
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,346	1,511
Veal	Mil. lb.	78	75
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,063	1,161
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	73	71
Total red meat	Mil. lb.	2,560	2,818

¹Bureau of the Census. ²Federal Reserve Board. ³Department of Commerce. ⁴Bureau of Labor Statistics - any figures not available at press time omitted.

¹January-February

²Ready-to-cook

³Commercial: excludes farm slaughter

SUGAR BEETS: For the fourth successive year, farmers plan to plant a record-high acreage of sugar beets. This year's prospective plantings of 1,401,000 acres is 9 percent more than the 1963 crop of 1,285,000 acres and 35 percent more than the 1958-62 average.

POTATOES: Reports from growers of late summer and fall potatoes indicate intentions to plant 1,098,200 acres in 1964--2 percent less than was planted in 1963. Of the 33 States where late summer and/or fall potatoes are grown, 18 intend to plant less acreage, 9 intend to plant more, and 6 States show intentions to plant the same acreage as was planted in 1963.

SWEET POTATOES: Intentions of growers on March 1 were to plant 193,500 acres of sweet-potatoes this year, 7 percent less than the 207,700 acres planted in 1963 and 16 percent less than the 1958-62 average. This would be the smallest acreage planted to sweetpotatoes of record.

Pig Crop Report

The number of hogs and pigs on farms in the 10 Corn Belt States on March 1, 1964 totaled 39,561,000 head. This is a decrease of 5 percent from the 41,794,000 head on farms a year earlier and is 4 percent less than the 41,040,000 head on farms March 1, 1962. The 10 States in this report are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

December-February Pig Crop

The December 1963-February 1964 pig crop in the 10 States totaled 12,182,000 head, 5 percent less than the 12,825,000 head for this period a year earlier. This is the result of a decline of 8 percent in the number of sows farrowing, which more than offset a 3-percent increase in the number of pigs saved per litter. The number of sows farrowed at 1,685,000 head compared with 1,836,000 head the same quarter of the previous year.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed in 7 States

The number of sheep and lambs on feed on March 1 in 7 major feeding States was 1,379,000

head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 7 percent below the number on feed in these States a year earlier. The number on feed on March 1 this year showed a 35 percent seasonal decline from the 2,114,000 head on feed in these States January 1, 1964. Last year the number of sheep and lambs on feed declined 40 percent between January 1 and March 1. The largest decreases were in California and Texas, down 26 percent and 24 percent respectively. The decrease in Colorado was 8 percent, Nebraska was down 4 percent, and Iowa 3 percent. South Dakota showed an increase of 17 percent and Kansas numbers were 3 percent greater than on March 1, 1963.

Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings by States, January 1964¹

State	Livestock and Products	Crops	Total
Maine	11,656	6,251	17,907
New Hampshire	4,510	752	5,262
Vermont	9,971	999	10,970
Massachusetts	9,326	3,834	13,160
Rhode Island	1,163	639	1,802
Connecticut	8,662	4,288	12,950
New York	56,098	19,241	75,339
New Jersey	13,901	3,811	17,712
Pennsylvania	50,368	14,804	65,172
Ohio	55,449	39,257	94,706
Indiana	60,456	65,526	125,982
Illinois	108,190	147,572	255,762
Michigan	36,706	24,505	61,211
Wisconsin	91,763	8,230	99,993
Minnesota	95,656	58,409	154,065
Iowa	178,712	139,717	318,429
Missouri	60,043	36,736	96,779
North Dakota	19,338	42,739	62,077
South Dakota	50,476	23,875	74,351
Nebraska	68,687	84,196	152,883
Kansas	67,535	70,702	138,237
Delaware	6,789	1,500	8,289
Maryland	16,535	3,686	20,221
Virginia	18,902	12,922	31,824
West Virginia	5,043	2,551	7,594
North Carolina	28,311	15,319	43,630
South Carolina	9,607	5,289	14,896
Georgia	38,804	8,146	46,950
Florida	18,687	113,396	132,083
Kentucky	24,573	128,037	152,610
Tennessee	19,619	39,341	58,960
Alabama	29,674	7,513	37,187
Mississippi	25,196	19,190	44,386
Arkansas	21,934	18,919	40,853
Louisiana	13,602	31,576	45,178
Oklahoma	29,763	16,019	45,782
Texas	86,673	201,398	288,071
Montana	10,470	23,437	33,907
Idaho	16,158	17,919	34,077
Wyoming	5,711	2,204	7,915
Colorado	35,731	14,561	50,292
New Mexico	6,138	11,622	17,760
Arizona	14,558	35,640	50,198
Utah	10,787	2,601	13,388
Nevada	2,945	951	3,896
Washington	18,134	26,526	44,660
Oregon	16,109	15,056	31,165
California	109,859	109,187	219,046
United States	1,698,978	1,680,589	3,379,567
Same period, year ago ..	1,716,357	1,708,821	3,425,178

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-Food Products

Year and Month	Retail Cost ¹	Farm Value ²	Farm-Retail Spread	Farmer's Share
1963 average.....	\$1,078	\$394	\$684	37%
1963 Jan.	1,078	408	670	38%
1963 Dec.	1,076	384	692	36%
1964 Jan.	1,079	398	681	37%

¹ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per family in 1952 by urban wage-earner and clerical-worker families calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts From Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	January 1964	February 1964
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
CASH RECEIPTS		
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	3,380	2,400
Livestock and products	1,699	1,400
Meat animals	980	
Dairy products	411	
Poultry and eggs	275	
Other	33	
Crops	1,681	1,000
Food grains	188	
Feed crops	541	
Cotton (lint and seed)	236	
Oil-bearing crops	170	
Tobacco	183	
Vegetables	132	
Fruits and tree nuts	122	
Other	110	
Government payments	80	
Grand total	3,460	
	1947-49 = 100	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:		
All commodities	159	114
Livestock and products	151	129
Crops	171	94

¹For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. Items may not add up to totals because they are rounded off.

March-May Farrowings

Sows bred and intended for farrowing in the March, April, and May period in 1964 totaled 3,413,000 head, 7 percent less than a year earlier. All States indicated fewer farrowings than a year earlier, with percentage decreases ranging from 3 percent in Illinois to 13 percent in Minnesota.

Expected farrowings by months are: 1,203,000 sows in March, 7 percent less than farrowed during March 1963; 1,314,000 head indicated for April, down 10 percent; and 896,000 head for May 1964, about the same as a year earlier. The March 1 intentions for the March-May quarter is 1 percentage point less than the intentions reported for this period on December 1, 1963.

February Milk Production

February milk production in the United States is estimated at 9,842 million pounds, 4 percent above both February 1963 and the 1958-62 average for the month. The extra day in February 1964 accounts for most of the increase in production from a year earlier. On a daily average basis, February production was only slightly larger than in 1963. The seasonal rise in average daily production from January to February was about 5 percent this year compared with 4 percent last year. Milk production amounted to 1.78 pounds per person daily, compared with 1.80 pounds in February a year ago. After adjustment for the extra day this year, February milk production was still above a year earlier in 18 States.

1963 Egg Production Second Highest

Egg production in the Nation during 1963 totaled 63,210 million eggs--fractionally above the 1962 production, and second only to the record high in 1959. This production resulted from a record rate of lay as layer numbers during 1963, which averaged 297 million, were slightly less than in 1962. The average rate of lay per layer on hand in 1963 was 212.8 eggs compared with 212.1 in 1962. The rate of egg production per layer has shown a steady upward trend. The rate of lay in 1950 was 174 eggs; in 1955, 192 eggs; and in 1960, 209 eggs.

William T. Schanger, Editor